

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS*

EMANUEL LIBMAN

Chairman, Committee on Graduate Fortnight

Mr. President, guests, Fellows of the Academy, ladies and gentlemen. The members of the Committee on the Graduate Fortnight in whose name I speak this evening, wish to express their appreciation to the officers of the Academy for the privilege of taking an active part in preparing the program of this, the fourth Fortnight. They have had only pleasure in carrying out their duties because of the advanced purposes of the Academy and the enthusiastic and cordial coöperation of medical schools, hospitals and individuals of this country as well as of Canada.

In choosing the subject for the Fortnight several objectives have always been kept in view. Subjects were to be chosen that were of timely interest and for the exposition of which New York City was best prepared. Furthermore, whenever possible, topics were to be preferred which would permit of participation by men engaged in the different branches of medicine. Finally, the educational value to the lay public was to be kept in mind.

The programs of former years permitted participation by men in surgery and the various specialties to a much greater degree than this one. The field of the cardiovascular system was chosen this year because of its great importance and also because this country has so much to offer in the way of contributions to it—not to speak of New York itself as one of the leaders in this branch. Directly the subject was chosen, it was natural for all to think of having Sir Thomas Lewis take the leading part. With his kind acceptance of the invitation of the Academy the success of the Fortnight was assured.

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The activities which begin tonight consist of lectures at the Academy, lectures and clinical demonstrations at medical schools and hospitals and exhibits at the Academy and elsewhere. A suggestion was made to members of the staffs of hospitals that under the auspices of the Academy they invite speakers from outside New York and from local hospitals to participate in the program. This suggestion was cordially received. As a result, hospital programs have become coördinate in importance with those of the Academy, as they should be.

The Exhibit part of the program was initiated last year. The present exhibit as provided by the Committee on Exhibition consisting of Drs. Gross, de La Chapelle and Mond, is an extensive and remarkable one. No such demonstration of the subject of cardiovascular disease has, as far as is known, been presented anywhere. The Committee and the individual exhibitors have done an arduous piece of work which will surely be of great profit to all, and will lend distinction to the Academy. The Committee has arranged to have practical demonstrations by the authors of individual exhibits and continuous demonstrations of all exhibits from two to eleven p.m. by a group of 60 volunteers. Although perhaps not quite correct to single out any individual, we cannot refrain from drawing attention to the generous attitude of Dr. Maude E. Abbott of Montreal, who has come here with an extensive exhibit and who will stay for the entire period of the Fortnight, to teach the embryology of the cardiovascular system and to demonstrate cases of congenital heart disease.

The Exhibit of the literature of the subject of the Fortnight is a very extensive one, going back to the time of Hippocrates. It has been prepared under the supervision of Dr. Malloch, Librarian of the Academy, aided by his staff and Dr. Charles K. Friedberg. This exhibit will be demonstrated at times to be announced in advance.

When one notes not only the great interest manifested by the medical men of the city but also the presence of so many physicians from all over the country and even from

distant points in Canada, one is again impressed with the desire of the medical man to learn. The physician, as of old, is the student and even when he has become the teacher, still remains the student.

The work of the Committee has been much lightened by the building up of a technic by the former Chairmen of the Committee, Dr. Ludwig Kast, who originally suggested the institution of these exercises and Dr. Harlow Brooks, and by Dr. Nellis Foster, Chairman, and Dr. Frederick P. Reynolds, Medical Secretary of the Committee on Medical Education, of which the Fortnight Committee is a subcommittee.
